



THE NEWARK MUSEUM



Fleet PRESENTS

THE 29TH ANNUAL

Admission
is
FREE

NEWARK BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

YOUR INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE
THE INDEPENDENT FILM MOVEMENT

JUNE 25 — JULY 30, 2003



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49 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102-3176



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Over the twenty-nine year history of the Newark Black Film Festival, much has changed in the business of filmmaking. Perhaps the most obvious changes are the profusion of movies that feature black people in significant and complicated roles, like those that garnered Denzel Washington and Halle Berry Academy Awards for best actor and actress respectively. Also more blacks are displaying their talent behind the camera as directors, cinematographers, producers, and composers. Indeed, we may be witnessing the beginning of a golden age for blacks in film.

From its beginning in 1974, the Festival believed in the simple premise that films significantly matter in the way a society organizes beliefs about itself and its members. With that as its objective, some films screened at the Festival deal with harsh realities of racism and social and political injustice. But it has also presented films that in some way provide an understanding of the great quest by blacks worldwide for freedom and independence.

With the black film genre now recognized as both mature and a worldwide phenomenon, this year's Festival will return to its roots with screenings of works by new and aspiring independent filmmakers. *Years ago young filmmakers Spike Lee, Warrington and Reginald Hudlin, Reggie Life, Ayoka Chenzira, Charles Burnett, among many others, appeared before Newark audiences that generously appreciated their work and emboldened their early careers.* By presenting recent films by talented independents, the Festival once again makes it possible for the audience to keep abreast with the most dynamic contributors to the film industry.

This season the Festival will salute one of the world's greatest film stars, Brock Peters. In a career that spans 60 years, Brock Peters is virtually without peer as an artist. His dignity, graceful strength, and conviction on and off camera secure his stature as an extraordinary American film icon.

The members of the Festival Selection Committee and the staff of The Newark Museum, which presents the Festival, are especially proud of this year's contribution to the life and times of our community. We hope that you will enjoy each screening.

CLEMENT ALEXANDER PRICE

Rutgers University, Newark Campus

Newark Black Film Festival Selection Committee Member

ADULT CINEMA SCHEDULE

THE GIFT OF LIFE

FILM:

EVERYTHING'S JAKE

JUNE 25 7:00 P.M. THE NEWARK MUSEUM

SPEAKERS: Chris Fetchko, Producer and Matthew Miele, Director

HOST: Cleatrice N. Johnson



Everything's Jake is a compelling story of a homeless man living in New York City who is pretty content with his lot in life. He considers all of New York his home, and his infectious enthusiasm and street-savvy attitude makes him a natural survivor with optimism that affects even the most straight-laced people he meets.

(Producer: Chris Fetchko/Director: Matthew Miele/English/Color/Rated R/ 90 minutes/2002)

THIS FAR BY FAITH

FILM:



Fleet PRESENTS

NEWARK BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

FILM:

REMEMBER THE TITANS

JULY 30 7:00 P.M. NEWARK SYMPHONY HALL

SPEAKER: Coach Herman Boone

HOST: Richard Wesley



In Virginia, high school football is king, but when the local school board was forced to intergrade an all black school with an all white school, the very foundation was put to the test. Based on the inspiring life of Coach Herman Boone, *Remember the Titans* is a rousing celebration of a town torn apart by resentment, friction and mistrust that overcame their differences together with a common vision and bond. (Producer: Jerry Bruckheimer/Director:

Boaz Yakin/English/Color/Rated R/113 minutes/2000)

YOUTH CINEMA SCHEDULE

MONDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.
NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.
THE NEWARK MUSEUM

MONDAY, JUNE 30 & WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

WHITEWASH

While walking home from school, Helene Angel is attacked by a street gang and painted white. Helene and her family are devastated, but an outpouring of love helps her face what has happened and draws the community together. (English/Color/25 minutes)

CHILDREN'S STORIES FROM AFRICA, VOLUME III

Filled with charming original songs and delightful African fables, this film entertains as well as teaches youngsters. (English/Color/27 minutes)

MONDAY, JULY 7 & WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

JAZZTIME

A young girl undergoes a social and personal transformation following her encounter with the legendary piano player Fats Waller. Narrated by Ruby Dee. (English/Color/29 minutes)

ELLA FITZGERALD:

THE TALE OF A VOCAL VIRTUOSA

The story of Ella Fitzgerald's rise to fame is told from the viewpoint of Scat Cat Monroe, an imaginary feline. Narrated by Billy Dee Williams. (English/Color/18 minutes)

DUKE ELLINGTON

This fitting tribute to the "King of the Keys" tells the story of a

ANNE B. REAL

JULY 2 7:00 P.M. NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (NJIT)

SPEAKER: Lisa France, Director

HOST: Theodore Johnson



Anne B. *Real* chronicles the life of a young woman who tries to ease the pain of shyness and ghetto life by hiding in her diary and creating a "star" image of herself. In reality, she's buried under a pair of headphones battling her own insecurities. Deceived by an older brother, who

takes advantage of her weaknesses as well as her amazing ability to write incredible hip-hop rhymes, he begins to secretly sell them to a local MC whose ego far outweighs his talent. (Producers: Josselyne Herman-Saccio & Luis Moro/Director: Lisa France/English/Color/Rated R/91 minutes/2003)

BEHOLD THE LENS OF GORDON PARKS

FILM:

HALF PAST AUTUMN: THE LIFE & WORKS OF GORDON PARKS

JULY 9 7:30 P.M. THE NEWARK MUSEUM

SPEAKER: Chester Higgins Jr., Photographer

SPECIAL GUEST: Gordon Parks

HOST: Gloria Hopkins Buck



Explore the life of preeminent photographer, poet, novelist, composer and filmmaker, Gordon Parks. One of the most prolific and diverse documentaries today, *Half Past Autumn* celebrates the amazing life of the legendary artist and treasured American icon. (Director: Craig Rice/English/Color/Documentary/90 minutes/2001)

A SALUTE TO BROCK PETERS

FILM:

THE PAWNBROKER

JULY 16 7:00 P.M. THE NEWARK MUSEUM

SPEAKER: Brock Peters, Actor

HOST: Dr. Clement A. Price



A story about hope and humanity that saves the life of an embittered survivor of a Nazi death camp, who cannot escape the ghosts of his past or the powerful lesson that awaits him in the future. Now a Harlem pawnbroker, this survivor condemns the fregs of society through his shop. Only when his life is saved by his idealistic assistant, does he learn the ultimate truth about his perceptions.

(Producer: Phillip Langner/Director: Sidney Lumet/English/Black&White/ Rated R/111 minutes/1965)

BLACKNESS CLASSICIZED

FILM:

KARMEN GEI

JULY 23 7:00 P.M. NEWARK SCREENS ON SPRINGFIELD AVE.

SPEAKER: Professor Zain Abdullah

HOST: Lori Barcliff-Baptista



Karmen Gei retells the legendary story of Carmen Jones, most notably portrayed by the late Dorothy Dandridge. Compared to the classic film *Black Orpheus*, this version introduces Karmen as a colorful, Senegalese musical full of dance and suspense. Featuring a musical score by jazz legend David Murry. (Director: Joseph Gai Ramaka/French and Wolof with English subtitles/Color/82 minutes/2001)

great man who proudly celebrated the history of African-Americans, from slavery to civil rights struggles. Narrated by Forest Whitaker. (English/Color/15 minutes)

MONDAY, JULY 14 & WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

WHO'S IN RABBIT'S HOUSE?

This animated production is from a Masai folktale about a rabbit who can't get into her house because the Long One, who "eats trees and tramples on elephants" is hiding inside. Narrated by James Earl Jones. (English/Color/13 minutes)

FOLLOW THE DRINKING COURD: THE STORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

This story is based on traditional African American folk songs, as Morgan Freeman recounts the compelling adventures of one family's escape from slavery. (English/Color/15 minutes)

AFRICAN STORY MAGIC

An urban child is exposed to the wonder and magic of traditional African folklore. Brock Peters narrates this tale of cultural awakening as legends and rituals are brought to life. (English/Color/27 minutes)

MONDAY, JULY 21 AT NPL

CHILDREN'S STORIES FROM AFRICA, VOLUME I & IV

Filled with charming original songs and delightful African fables, this film entertains as well as teaches youngsters. (English/Color/54 minutes)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23 AT NEWARK SCREENS ON SPRINGFIELD AVE.

KIRIKOU AND THE SORCERESS

Based on a timeless African folktale this animated film from France recounts the tale of tiny Kirikou, born in an African village in which Karaba the sorceress has placed a terrible curse. Kirikou sets out to save his village and to discover why Karaba is so wicked. (English/Color/74 minutes)

MONDAY, JULY 28 & WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

DREADLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

The classic tale of Goldilocks is transformed into a story about identity, heritage and roots. (English/Color/13 minutes)

JOSHUA'S MASAI MASK

A magical Masai mask takes an African American boy on a series of adventures during which time he discovers the joy of being himself. (English/Color/11 minutes)

CHAMPAGNE & THE TALKING EGGS

A young Selina befriends a mystical elderly woman, and magical things happen-not the least of which is the surprise of three talking eggs. Based on a Creole folktale and narrated by Danny Glover. (English/Color/38 minutes)

EXHIBITION ON VIEW AT THE NEWARK MUSEUM:

JUNE 25-AUGUST 31, 2003

HALF PAST AUTUMN: THE ART OF GORDON PARKS

The first complete retrospective of the works of a man who has mastered many media to express an uplifting and influential message of hope in the face of adversity.

THE 29TH ANNUAL BLACK FILM FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL SUPPORT

The 29th Annual Newark Black Film Festival has received special funding from its official sponsor, Fleet.

Co-presenters include Newark Symphony Hall, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Newark Public Library, the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University (Newark Campus) and Newark Screens on Springfield Ave. The Festival is organized and hosted by The Newark Museum located at 49 Washington Street in Newark's Downtown/Arts District.

All screenings are FREE to the public. Seating for all screenings is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once the theater is filled to capacity, additional seating will not be provided. Group seating is limited to two groups of 25 for each screening. To reserve group seating, call 973-596-6550. Group seating will be held only until 6:45 p.m.

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

LORI BARCLIFF-BAPTISTA

Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience
(Newark Campus)

GLORIA HOPKINS BUCK
Consultant

PATRICIA FAISON
Marketing Assistant
The Newark Museum

JEFF FRIDAY
President, Film Life Inc.

WILMA GREY
Assistant Director of Community Library Services, Newark Public Library

CYNTHIA HOLLOD
Deputy Director for Marketing
The Newark Museum

CLEATRICE N. JOHNSON
Marketing Manager/NBFF Project Director
The Newark Museum

THEODORE JOHNSON

Executive Director of Compliance Training, Community Relations New Jersey Institute of Technology

LISA PAYNE
Filmmaker

DR. CLEMENT ALEXANDER PRICE

Professor of History, Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, Rutgers University (Newark Campus)

MARY SUE SWEENEY PRICE
Director, The Newark Museum

JANE RAPPAPORT
Former Festival Coordinator

RICHARD WESLEY
Scriptwriter and Playwright

MEMBERS EMERITUS

Clarence C. Ali
Flora B. Baldwin

John Gregory Clemons
Oliver Franklin

Gustav Heringburg

SCREENING LOCATIONS

THE NEWARK MUSEUM The Billy Johnson Auditorium
49 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 973-596-6550

NEWARK SCREENS ON SPRINGFIELD AVE.
360-394 Springfield Avenue, Newark, NJ 973-642-5555

NEWARK SYMPHONY HALL 1020 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 973-643-4550

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (NJIT)
University Hall, 99 Summit Street, Newark, NJ 973-596-3000

NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 973-733-7730

FILM SOURCES

EVERYTHING'S JAKE

Chris Fetchko Management
461 Ridge Avenue
West Hazleton, PA 18202
chris@fetchmanagement.com

ANNE B. REAL

Reve Entertainment Group
244 West 54th Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10019
dreamreve@aol.com

HALF PAST AUTUMN:
THE LIFE & WORKS OF GORDON PARKS
WPG Inc.
285 Central Park West
New York, NY 10024
dhicks@wpginc.com

KARMEN DEI

California Newsreel (US)
P.O. Box 2284
South Burlington, VT 05407
www.californianewsreel.org

REMEMBER THE TITANS

Walt Disney Pictures [us]
506 2nd Avenue
Suite 2100
Seattle, WA 98104
disney.go.com/DisneyPictures

THE PAWN BROKER

Republic Entertainment Inc.
5700 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 525 North
Los Angeles, CA 90036

If you are interested in learning more about the programs at The Newark Museum, please call 973-596-6550 or visit our web site at www.newarkmuseum.org



The Newark Museum is a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, that receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, and corporate, foundation and individual donors. Funds for acquisitions activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.





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25 – JULY 30, 2003

OF GORDON PARKS

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PARKS
P.M.**

ns Jr., Photographer
Parks

PETERS

**ROKER
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Actor

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FLEET NIGHT

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JULY 30 7:00 P.M.

Newark Symphony Hall

SPEAKER: Coach Herman Boone

CO-PRESENTERS: Newark Symphony Hall; New Jersey
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Rutgers University (Newark Campus); Newark Screens on
Springfield Ave.

For more information call **973-596-6550** or
visit **www.newarkmuseum.org/nbff**